



862.C1917

PATENT APPLICATION

#6  
2 Jan 01  
R. Tallent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
EIGO KAWAKAMI, ET AL. ) : Examiner: Unassigned  
Application No.: 09/577,608 ) : Group Art Unit: 2876  
Filed: May 25, 2000 ) :  
For: POSITIONING APPARATUS, ) December 11, 2000  
ATMOSPHERE SUBSTITUTING :  
METHOD, EXPOSURE APPARATUS, )  
AND DEVICE MANUFACTURING :  
METHOD )

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

Japanese Patent Document No. 2-156625 is discussed on page 1 of the subject specification. The Examiner may find this document pertinent for the reasons noted therein.

No translation was readily available for the above-noted Japanese document. Nevertheless, a translation of this document will be submitted if so requested by the Examiner. In the meantime, an English-language abstract, obtained from a commercial database, is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

Applicants believe that no fee is due in connection with this filing. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205 should any fee be deemed required for this filing.

Applicants request that the Examiner consider the above information and return an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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